

WV Health Innovation Collaborative Newsletter

GOHELP & the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources

One Davis Square, Charleston, WV 25301

October 2014 Volume 1, Issue 3

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Recap of September Meetings

Better Health: Stephen Smith and Kate Long with the WV Health Kids and Families Coalition presented on the “Try This” Initiative. This effort is designed to help improve WV’s health statistics one county at a time by identifying successful community-based efforts and replicating them across the state. For more information on this initiative, please visit: <http://trythiswv.com/> or <https://www.facebook.com/trythiswv>.

Better Care: A presentation was provided on Lily’s Place, a medical care facility for infants suffering from prenatal drug exposure and offering education and support services to families and communities to help recognize and manage the needs of substance abused babies. More information on the program can be located at: <https://www.facebook.com/AddictedBabies>.



A subcommittee will be formed to help review care models for substance abusing mothers. If interested in participating, please contact Nancy Sullivan at Nancy.J.Sullivan@wv.gov.

Amanda McCarty, Bureau for Public Health, discussed the State Health Improvement Planning process and the opportunity all workgroups had to focus on select health priorities and work to improve performance. The group identified four key categories of emphasis: obesity, data/measurable outcomes, community engagement, and substance abuse.

Lower Cost: The Lower Cost group heard presentations from WVCHIP Director Sharon Carte on the future funding concerns related to the WVCHIP program, and from Chuck Thayer, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Public Health on Local Health Departments and their funding streams.


A question and answer section with the RAND Corporation and the National Association of County and City Health Officials was also held, in which the Collaborative members discussed their visions for the future of the Health Innovation Collaborative and what can be accomplished.




Federal Announcements

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has conducted a study on cost-effective preventive health services that may assist providers in helping patients avoid the onset or worsening of various health conditions. Through meta-analyses or comparative studies published in peer-review journals from January 2007 to April 2014, the GAO categorized each service identified in the review into a preventive health type, and provided information on the target population, whether a service was cost saving, and whether a service had been recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force or the Advisory Committee on Immunization practices.

For more information on this study, please visit: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-789R>



On September 12, 2014, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced more than \$295M in Affordable Care Act funds to increase access to primary care at health centers. West Virginia received \$5.775M across 25 entities. For a full list of health centers in the state that received grant funding, please visit: <http://www.hrsa.gov/about/news/2014tables/expandedservices/westvirginia.html>



The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School offers a growing catalog of online courses on improvement capability, patient safety, triple aim for populations, person and family-centered care, leadership, and quality, cost, and value. All the courses are free for students, residents, and faculty, and available to professionals for a small, annual fee.

One of the IHI Open School's goals is for schools and organizations around the world to integrate the courses into their curricula and training programs, giving learners the opportunity to gain these crucial skills that will help them become change agents in health care. Some schools and organizations require completion of all 16 courses in our Basic Certificate, while others handpick a few modules to teach specific concepts.

For more information on the IHI Open School, visit:

<http://www.ihl.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/Courses/Pages/OSInTheCurriculum.aspx>



The American Cancer Society is pleased to announce that we have a new addition to the Workplace Solutions family: the Nutrition and Physical Activity Planner is now available! Like the Tobacco Policy Planner, the Nutrition and Physical Activity Planner is a tool to quickly assess a company's policies, programs and benefits addressing nutrition and physical activity behaviors in the workplace and provide recommendations for implementation and/or improvements. Company representatives will register, complete a survey, receive a customized, in-depth report to guide them through improving their culture of wellness and have access to an extensive resource library that will provide many of the tools they need to implement the recommendations.

Check it out: <http://www.acsworkplacesolutions.com/nuPA-Planner.asp>





Announcements From Our Partners

Health Innovation Collaborative member Amy Weintraub with WV Free had the opportunity to meet with White House officials in September to discuss women and the Affordable Care Act. Ms. Weintraub was invited as the WV Regional Coordinator for Raising Women's Voices, a national initiative working to make sure women's voices are heard and women's concerns are addressed as policymakers put the health care law into action. To read Ms. Weintraub's full op-ed piece, please visit:

<http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20140928/ARTICLE/140929374/1103>

Research Initiatives

The Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), through collaboration with Perry Udem Research and Communication, sponsored a focus group study of individuals who are newly enrolled in Medicaid. The initiative conducted six focus groups around the country to learn about early experiences of newly enrolled consumers when using their Medicaid coverage.

Overall findings related to the study found that all were happy to have found coverage; many study participants feel their health has improved since enrolling; some study participants feel there is a stigma to Medicaid; most know little about the Medicaid program; provider access has been an issue; and filling prescriptions has sometimes been difficult, in addition to several other findings.

To read the full study report, please visit:

www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/files/2014/09/early-experiences-new-Medicaid-enrollees-2.pdf

A similar research initiative is currently being developed through a joint collaboration with WVDHHR, the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner, and several WHIC partners. Research findings will be shared upon completion of the project.



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etc. for publication.**

Visit us on the web at:

**[https://sites.google.com/site/wvwiki/
home](https://sites.google.com/site/wvwiki/home) (New website coming soon!)**

**Be sure to continue sending updates
about programs around the State
and check out all the latest presenta-
tions and notes!**

October Workgroup Meetings

Better Health: Oct. 21, 10-12pm

Better Care: Oct. 21, 2-4pm

Lower Cost: Oct. 24, 1-3pm



Federal Grant Opportunities

HCCI and NASHP Announce New Grant Program for State Health Reform Research

The Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI) and the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) are pleased to announce a new state health policy research [grant program](#). Funded by a \$1.5 million grant from the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, this program will provide grants for five data-driven research projects that analyze state health care system reforms under the Affordable Care Act as well as other state health reforms. The funded projects will leverage HCCI's database of private and public claims data to shed light on the outcomes of state-based initiatives and reform efforts. A call for proposals will be forthcoming in the fall of 2014.



Local Grant Opportunity

A meeting was held on September 11, 2014 with Eric Brenner, former Director of the Maryland Governor's Grants Office. Discussion was held on opportunities to develop a state grant office in WV, create a statewide grant point of contact network list, and schedule monthly meetings to discuss grant information.

A follow-up meeting is being planned for October to continue with this discussion. If you would be interested in participating in this meeting (date TBD), please contact Julie.C.Palas@wv.gov with your information.